

# ALASKA TRUCKING ASSOCIATION

3443 Minnesota Drive • Anchorage, Alaska 99503 • Phone: (907) 276-1149 • Fax: (907) 274-1946  
www.aktrucks.org

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October 3, 2006

Renee Orr  
5-Year Program Manager  
Minerals Management Service (MS-4010), Room 3120  
381 Elden Street  
Herndon, Virginia 20170

re: Federal Outer Continental Shelf  
Five-Year Plan EIS

Dear Renee Orr,

The Alaska Trucking Association supports increased access to the Alaska OCS within a strong regulatory framework that protects the environment, other resource users and traditional ways of life for local residents.

**We support expanded leasing** on the U.S. Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) during the 5-year period 2007 – 2012 in the Chukchi and Beaufort seas, Cook Inlet, the Aleutian Basin, and future leasing in Bristol Bay. Exploration and production activities in Alaska offshore waters will provide many benefits, including many new jobs in rural and urban areas, additional tax and royalty income to the state, federal revenue sharing with local communities, new local sources of fuel and energy, and improved search and rescue operations.

**We believe that allowing access** will significantly reduce U.S. reliance on imports, improve domestic energy security, diversify supply, stimulate economic development and generate local, state and federal revenues.

**The U.S. must diversify** its domestic oil and gas production to other Federal waters outside the Gulf of Mexico. After the hurricanes of 2005, 92 percent of the gulf's oil output and 83 percent of its natural gas production was shutdown, resulting in sharply higher energy prices and an economic slowdown.

**We also believe that new leasing in the Alaska OCS should move forward** only after proper local stakeholder consultation, planning and environmental analysis is undertaken. Exploration and development should be based on a strong regulatory system with stringent discharge requirements. Any leasing plan should consider conflict avoidance with other resource industries and subsistence harvesters, seasonal operating restrictions, and impact mitigation.

**We encourage MMS to include revenue sharing** with states and local communities in its leasing plan. Areas most directly affected by oil and gas development should be allocated a share of the government revenues it generates.



Renee Orr  
5-Year Program Manager  
Minerals Management Service  
10/3/06

**OCS development has an outstanding safety and environmental record** spanning decades. Development has coexisted with other industries, including fishing, in the North Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and Cook Inlet. The National Academy of Sciences recently determined that less than 1 percent of all oil entering the seas is from drilling and extraction activities.

**It is important that future OCS activities adhere to strong environmental standards** in accordance with the law. Any final decisions from MMS should ensure that industry's footprint is minimized and that biological resources, traditional lifestyles and the environment are protected.

**We support the conclusions contained in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement**, and urge the MMS to properly consider all of the environmental impacts involved in Alaska's offshore development.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'A Thompson', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Aves D. Thompson  
Executive Director

cc: ATA Board  
RDC Executive Director